

Amendments to the Drawings:

Replacement sheets representing formal drawings of Figures 1-8 are being submitted herewith.

Formal drawings of Figures 1-8 include the following revisions: reference sign 49 has been added to Figure 5; and reference signs 51 and 53 have been added to Figure 6. Marked up versions of Figures 5 and 6 have been provided for the Examiner. No new matter has been added in these drawing revisions. Applicants request consideration and approval of the formal drawings by the Examiner.

Enclosures: Replacement Figures 1-8

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, claims 1, 4-8, 10-13, and 15-18 stand rejected; and claims 2, 3, 9 and 14 stand objected to. By way of this paper, Claims 1, 4, 6, 14, and 16 have been amended; and new claims 19-28 have been added herein.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Specification

The paragraph of the specification beginning on page 1, line 5, has been amended to provide the publication number and filing date of the related application described therein. Applicants request consideration and approval of this amendment to the specification by the Examiner.

Formal Drawings

Replacement sheets representing formal drawings of Figures 1-8 are being submitted herewith.

Formal drawings of Figures 1-8 include the following revisions: reference sign "49" has been added to Figure 5; and reference signs "51" and "53" have been added to Figure 6. Marked up versions of Figures 5 and 6 have been provided for the Examiner. No new matter has been added in these drawing revisions. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings by the Examiner.

Additionally, the paragraph of the specification beginning on page 4, line 23, has been amended to replace reference sign "20" which is associated with the term "print carriage" with "(not shown)." This amendment maintains consistency with the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 26, and ending on page 4, line 7, which also discusses the term "print carriage." Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Meyers et al. ('674) reference.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly point out that the gas flow has a temperature, the heated surface has a temperature, and the temperature of the gas flow is cooler than the temperature of the heated surface. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 9, lines 10-17, of Applicants' specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to more clearly point out that the heated portion of the surface has a temperature, the gas flow has a temperature, and the temperature of the gas flow is cooler than the temperature of the heated portion of the surface. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 9, lines 10-17, of Applicants' specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the Meyers et al. ('674) reference discloses a dryer 100 that uses a heating element 110 to heat air in order to accomplish liquid ink drying (col. 4, lines 10 and 31-34; col. 8, lines 20-25 and 64). The Meyers et al. ('674) reference does not disclose that dryer 100 includes a heat source that directly heats platen 130. In fact, the Meyers et al. ('674) reference appears to be silent on this issue which would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to conclude that the temperature of the heated air produced by heating element 110 is warmer than the temperature of the platen 130. One of ordinary skill in the art would draw the same conclusion even when it is assumed that some indirect heating of platen 130 occurs within air drying section 40 of dryer 100. This is because the Meyers et al. ('674) reference discloses that it is the heated air that causes printed ink to dry (col. 4, lines 42-44; col. 8, lines 20-25).

In contrast, Applicants' invention accomplishes drying using a gas flow having a temperature that is cooler than the temperature of the heated surface as claimed in claims 1 and 16, see, for example, page 9, lines 10-17, of Applicants' specification. It can not be said that this feature of Applicants' invention is disclosed by the Meyers et al. ('674) reference. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claims 1 and 16 is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 16. Accordingly, claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, and 18 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claims 1 and 16.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Myers et al. ('674) reference.

Claim 5 depends from amended claim 1. As such, Applicants submit that claim 5 is considered patentable for at least the reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 5 is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 6, and 14 stand objected to for containing minor informalities. By way of this paper, Claims 4, 6, and 14 have been amended to correct these minor informalities.

Specifically, claim 4 has been amended to more clearly describe that the gas flow guide is positioned to create an angle relative to a plane tangential to the surface of the support referred to in claim 1. Claim 6 has been amended to more clearly describe that the support referred to in claim 1 includes a width dimension. Claim 14 has been amended to more clearly describe that the gas flow guide includes a plurality of fins that direct gas toward the heated surface at a location spaced apart from the origin of the heated surface. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 4, 6, and 14.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3, 9, and 14 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New claims 19 and 20 have been added herein. Independent claim 19 includes the subject matter of claim 2, indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

Claim 20, depending from claim 19, includes the subject matter of originally presented claim 3. Applicants request allowance of new claims 19 and 20.

New claims 21-23 have been added herein. Independent claim 21 includes the subject matter of claim 9, indicated as allowable by the Examiner, and any intervening claims. Claim 22 includes the subject matter of claim 2, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claim 23 includes the subject matter of claim 14, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Applicants request allowance of new claims 21-23.

New claim 24 has been added herein. Independent claim 24 includes the subject matter of claim 14, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Applicants request allowance of new claim 24.

Additional Claim Amendments

Claims 25-27, depending from claim 1, have been added herein. Claim 28, depending from claim 16, has also been added herein. Support for claims 25, 26, and 28 can be found on at least page 6, lines 5-10, 27 and 28; and page 7, lines 10-12, of Applicants' specification. Support for claim 27 can be found on at least page 7, lines 21-30, of Applicants' specification. Applicants submit that the features described in claims 25-28 are not disclosed by the Myers et al. ('674) reference.

As described above, Applicants submit that the Myers et al. ('674) reference does not disclose that dryer 100 includes a heat source that directly heats platen 130. Heating, if any, of platen 130 occurs indirectly through the heated air created by heating element 110. This is commonly referred to as convection.

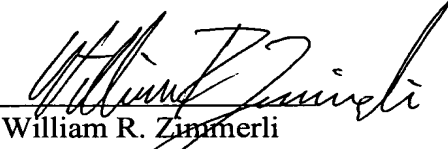
In contrast, claims 25-28 describe heating the surface using conduction, see, for example, page 6, lines 5-10, 27 and 28; and page 7, lines 10-12 and 21-30, of Applicants' specification. It can not be said that these features of Applicants' invention are disclosed by the Meyers et al. ('674) reference. Accordingly, allowance of claims 25-28 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

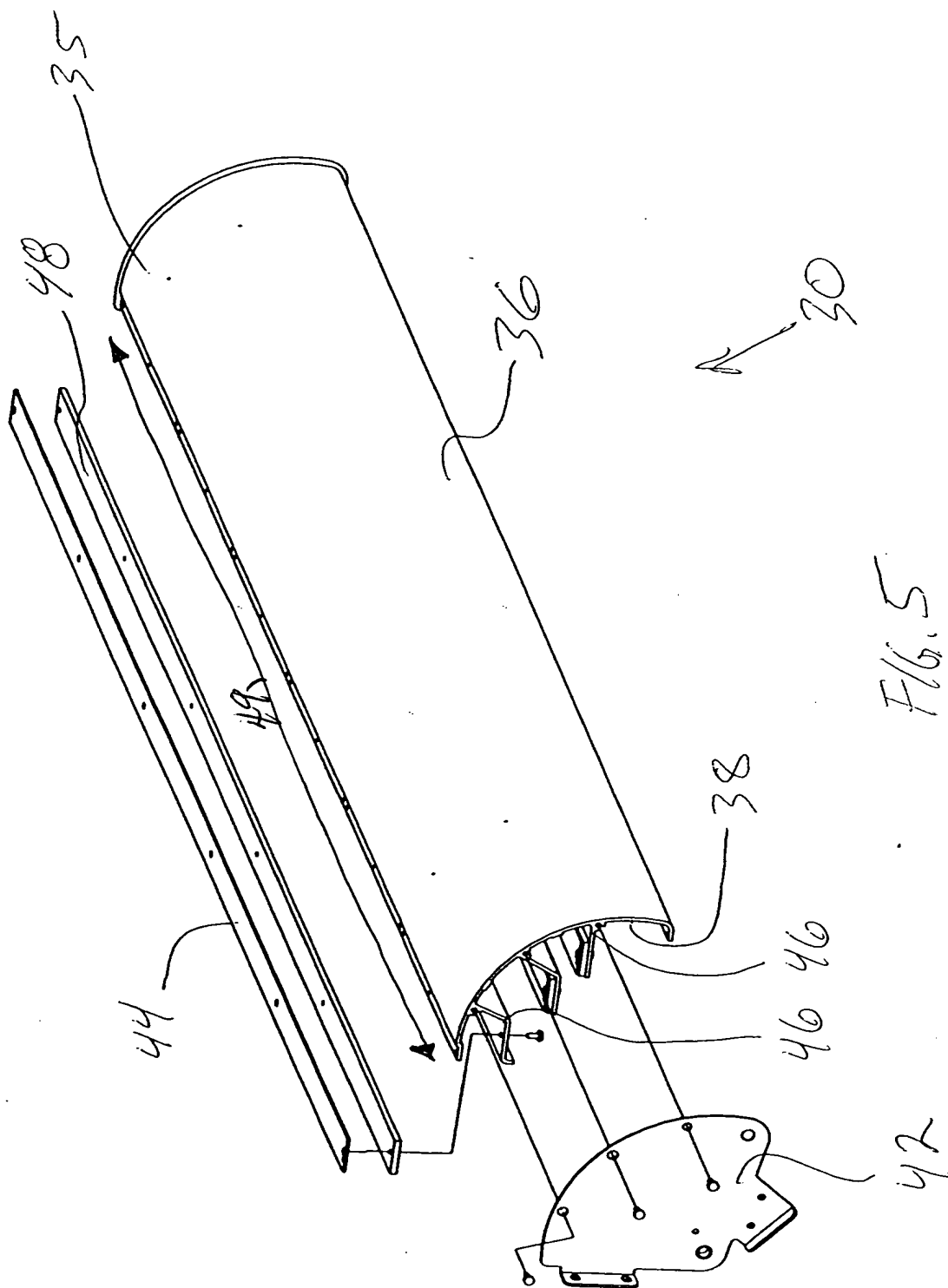
It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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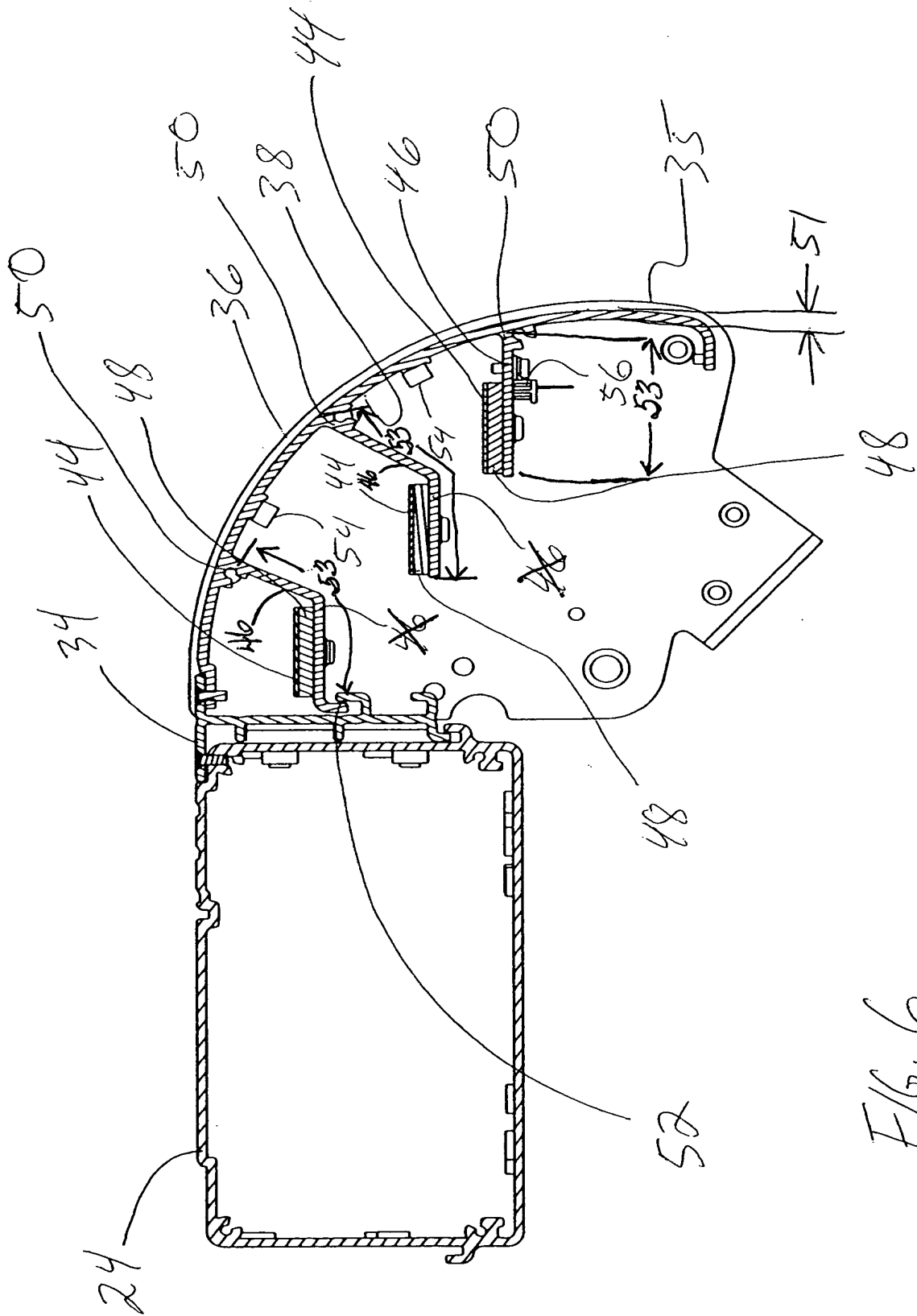


FIG. 6